



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

June 1, 2011
7:30 p.m.
City Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Donna Fossum, Jesse Jennings, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey, Louisa Ward and Justin Wilson

Staff Present: Abi Lerner -T&ES, Karen Callaham -T&ES, Sandra Marks - T&ES, Jim Maslanka - T&ES, Brad Putzier - DASH, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Steve Kaii-Ziegler - P&Z

A quorum being present, the Chair called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

1. May 4, 2011 Minutes

Chairman Posey asked if there were any changes to be made to the May minutes. It was recommended to change Co-Chair to Vice Chair where mentioned in the minutes. In addition, it was recommended to change the wording from “..approval was recommended..” to “..motion was made and seconded”, under the April 6, 2011 Minutes section. There being no additional edits, approval of the minutes was moved and seconded and approved unanimously.

2. King Street/Beauregard Intersection Improvements

T&ES staff, Lisa Jaatinen reported the main objective of this project is to create a safe multi-modal environment for pedestrians and motorists while increasing capacity and improving operational efficiency. Lisa gave an update on the right of way process and indicated that road construction is expected to begin this spring and completed by 2013; The project is funded by a combination of federal, state and City funds.

3. Telegraph Road Update - VDOT

VDOT staff John Lynch and Jonathan A. Jacobsen reported on the scope and current status of the project. The specified work on the final contract began in February 2008 with 75% of the work currently being completed. The contract completion date is June 30, 2013. The VDOT presentation reported on the short and long term impacts on the area as a result of the construction. All beltway ramps and express lanes of the beltway are expected to be complete by the end of 2011. The project is on track for substantial completion by late 2012.

4. Funding Update`

T&ES staff, Abi Lerner, reported that City Council passed a budget that included a reservation of 2.2 cents of every \$100 of the property tax for funding transportation projects. A resolution was also passed endorsing the City's application of a Safe Routes to Schools grant application. City staff communicated to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) the City's eligibility for transit funding from CTB as a result of the budget passed by Council on May 2, 2011. The Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment to perform a study on the viability of transit on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. A report was received by TPB on the governance of several transit agencies in other metropolitan areas.

WMATA discussed proposed bylaws and procedure changes with members of the Governors and Mayors workgroup and MWCOG/BOT Task Force. WMATA received information on criteria to develop new station names. Station names must be submitted to WMATA by September 2011. A motion was made to encourage City Council to utilize previous public input provided in renaming City metro stations, most especially King Street / Old Town. The motion was seconded, and unanimously approved. The Northern Virginia Transportation Council (NVTC) gave a presentation on the real-time bus information system and held discussions on the BRAC relocations in the region.

5. King Street Metro Improvements

Staff received comments on the King Street Improvements project at the May 4, 2011 Transportation Commission general meeting and public hearing. There were questions and comments concerning the kiss-and ride; way finding; cement sidewalks; taxi layover spaces; improved bicycling features; how the current plan leaves little room for expansion; additional space for shuttles/school buses; brick sidewalks on the perimeter of site set in concrete; King Street/Daingerfield/Diagonal, Duke /Diagonal and Daingerfield /Duke intersection analyses to review bus, vehicular and pedestrian movements; and trees provided in accordance with City criteria. The City, in conjunction with WMATA, and WMATA's consultant Gannett-Fleming, are refining the design to address comments.

6. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRP) Update

T&ES staff, Abi Lerner, distributed the finalized list of long range transportation projects, programs and studies. Projects were removed from the list if some portion of funding was received. Other projects were placed on the priority list to receive funding from the portion of real property tax revenues reserved for transportation projects. Once any portion of funding is obtained, projects are always moved to the CIP list. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to endorse the final LRP list as the City's Long Range Transportation Plan.

7. Revised Transportation Project List

City Council did not pass the proposed 12.5 cent Commercial Real Estate Tax to be used toward priority transportation projects. However, Council did approve a 2.2 cents reserve of each \$100 of the real property tax revenues to be used for priority transportation projects. The reduced funding caused the initial list of priority ten year transportation projects to be revised. Staff asked the Transportation Commission subcommittee for input on the revised list prior to finalizing the list for City Council consideration. A motion to approve the list of projects was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

8. Staff Updates

Abi Lerner announced that the Transportation Commission received a request from the City's Legislative Director for input on legislative proposals for the 2012 General Assembly. It was recommended the Transportation Commission establish a subcommittee to draft the Legislative Package for the 2012 General Assembly. Commissioners Jennings and Mitchell volunteered to form that subcommittee and prepare a report for the next Transportation Commission meeting.

Abi Lerner reminded Commissioners of prior discussions requesting CMAQ RSTP funding on an extended basis instead of yearly. Per VDOT direction, we are now requesting a six year plan. Commissioners were asked to be prepared to share their thoughts at the September meeting.

Abi Lerner distributed a letter from the Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) Chairman Abramson to the Transportation Commission. The letter relates to DASH's operating versus capital allocation and deficits.

BRAC-133 – The US House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012 delaying full occupancy of BRAC facilities for a year and restricting parking capacity pending completion of road improvements. The legislation must now pass the US Senate. VDOT committed \$80 million for long term road improvements in the Mark Center vicinity. The Army transferred \$20 million to fund short and midterm road improvements in the same area. A DASH agreement was executed to provide enhanced transit services between King Street Metro and the Mark Center. DOD will subsidize bus services so their employees and contractors can ride free. DOD and WMATA agreed in principle to an express shuttle service between the Pentagon and Mark Center. Council approved new daytime parking district in neighborhoods adjacent to Mark Center. T&ES began conducting traffic counts throughout West End neighborhoods. BRAC Mark Center occupancy is set to begin August 9, 2011.

Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study – The High Capacity Transit Corridor Workgroup determined that Alternative D is the preferred alternative in Corridor C until Alternative G becomes feasible and can be implemented. Alternative D will be on City Council's public hearing agenda in September. City staff and the consultant will prepare concepts for Corridors A and B and present them at the Transitway Corridor Feasibility Workgroup meeting on July 21, 2011.

9. Commission Updates

Chairman Posey asked that during the summer break, Commissioners think about what they envision the City of Alexandria's transportation system as a whole, rather than just improvements within a collection of neighborhoods. Chairman Posey also requested that DASH present to the Commission at a future meeting on issues such as ridership.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:47 p.m. seconded and unanimously accepted.